

**AMBITION REFLECTED IN AGATHA CHRISTIE'S ENDLESS NIGHT  
NOVEL (1967): A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM**



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**APPROVAL**

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Titis Setyabudi', is written over a horizontal line.

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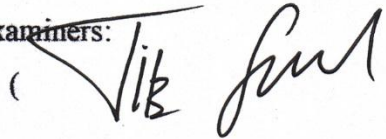
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**AMBITION REFLECTED IN AGATHA CHRISTIE'S ENDLESS NIGHT NOVEL**  
**(1967): A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM**

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## **SUMARRY**

### **AMBITION REFLECTED IN AGATHA CHRISTIE'S ENDLESS NIGHT NOVEL (1967): A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM.**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study is purposed to show ambition of Michael Rogers, the main character in Endless night novel. Object of the study of this research is the novel. This research analyzes the ambition of Michael Rogers that deals with id, ego, and superego using psychoanalytic criticism. This study is qualitative research using Agatha Christie's Endless Night novel (1967) as the object. There are two kinds of data source: primary and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the novel of Endless Night and secondary data sources are reference books. The method of collecting data is note taking by reading the novel and taking notes for important things for both primary and secondary data. Based on the psychoanalytic analysis, the novel tells that the major character, Michael Rogers has ambition to get everything what he wants with the wrong ways.

Keywords: ambition, Endless Night, psychoanalytic criticism

## **RINGKASAN**

### **AMBITION REFLECTED IN AGATHA CHRISTIE'S ENDLESS NIGHT NOVEL (1967): A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM.**

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## **ABSTRAK**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menunjukkan ambisi dari Michael Rogers, tokoh utama dalam novel *Endless Night*. Objek dari penelitian ini adalah sebuah novel. Penelitian ini menganalisis tentang ambisi dari Michael Rogers yang berhubungan dengan *id*, *ego*, dan *superego* menggunakan teori *psychoanalytic*. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif menggunakan novel *Endless Night* sebagai objek. Ada dua jenis sumber data: primer dan sekunder. Sumber data primer adalah

novel *Endless Night* dan sumber data kedua adalah buku referensi. Metode pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini adalah dengan cara mencatat. Yaitu dengan membaca novel dan mencatat hal hal penting dari kedua data primer dan sekunder. berdasarkan teori *psychoanalytic*, novel ini menceritakan bahwa Michael Rogers memiliki ambisi untuk mendapatkan sesuatu yang dia inginkan dengan cara yang salah.

Kata kunci: ambisi, *Endless Night*, teori *Psychoanalytic criticism*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Ambition is commonly mentioned but poorly understood concept in social science research. The current study sought to contribute to understanding of the concept by developing and testing a model in which ambition is a middle-level trait (Cantor, 1990). One finds myriad references to ambition in literature (“the lower still I fall, only supreme in misery; such joy ambition finds”. The model considers ambition as a “middle level” trait (Cantor, 1990, p.735) that, in an Allportian sense, focuses on “proprie strivings”.

As can be seen, the English language definitions see ambition as a desire to achieve ends, especially ends like success, power, and wealth. Central to these definitions is the aspirational nature of ambition—there is a motivational process at work, oriented toward the attainment of outcomes. These definitions make it logical to study ambition in the context of career success, and surprising that few such studies have been undertaken.

There is also a tradition within psychology research to define ambition in terms of goals or plans for accomplishments, as best seen in Locke’s (1996) goal-setting theory research, where ambition is often mentioned as a source of individual differences in goals (Locke & Latham, 2002; Mento, Locke, & Klein, 1992). However, in many ways the psychological definitions are less consistent than the dictionary definitions, and contain more overlap with already established constructs like conscientiousness (Schwyhart & Smith, 1972). Although the psychological research definitions are more varied than the dictionary definitions, nearly all definitions include habitual setting of goals or goal striving. In an effort to summarize and integrate these definitions, we define ambition as follows: ambition is the persistent and generalized striving for success, attainment, and accomplishment.

Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalytic theory was born in Austria in 1856. The psychoanalytic theory of Freud is reviewed because of its prominence in the culture of our society, its place in the history of psychology, and its importance as a model of a psychodynamic theory of personality. Psychoanalysis has reflected changing values in our society and has itself played a role in the changing of these values.

It seems like an empty wrangle over words to argue whether mental life is to be regarded as co-extensive with consciousness or whether it may be said to stretch beyond this limit, and yet I can assure you that the acceptance of unconscious mental processes represents a decisive step toward a new orientation in the word and science (Freud, 1924.p.26).

Psychoanalytic theory was derived from intensive work with individual and in turn, was applied to individual. Although it involves assumption relevant to all people, psychoanalytic theory has particular relevance to the study of individual differences as well as the total functioning of individuals. Furthermore, psychoanalysis exemplifies a psychodynamic theory in that it gives a prominent role to the complex interplay among forces in human behavior (Pervin, 1984:62).

Included here are Freud's concepts of the unconscious, preconscious, and conscious as descriptive qualities of mental life. According to the psychoanalytic theory, psychic life can be described in terms of the degree to which we are aware of phenomena: the conscious relates to phenomena we are aware of at any given moment, the preconscious to phenomena we are able to be aware of if we attend to them, and the unconscious to phenomena that we are unaware of, and cannot become aware of except under special circumstance (Pervin, 1984:71).

In 1923 Freud developed a more formal structural model of psychoanalysis, defined by the concepts of id, ego, and superego which refer to different aspects of people's positioning.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

In analyzing *Endless Night* Novel by Agatha Christie, the researcher uses qualitative research. Type of data in this study is textual which consist of words, phrases, sentences and dialogue in the novel. The researcher uses primarily data sources and secondary data sources. The primarily data sources is Agatha Christie's *Endless Night* Novel (1967). Secondary data sources are references books and the research paper. The technique of collecting data is note taking by reading the original novel and *Endless Night* novel in Indonesian language, and taking notes for important things for both primary and secondary data. Based on the psychoanalytic analysis, the novel tells that the major character, Michael Rogers has ambition to get everything what he wants with the wrong ways.

## **3. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

In resulting of the research, the researcher draws some result as follows. They are the structure of Michael Rogers's personality dealing with Freud's psychoanalytic theory. The second part discusses about ambition and its process. Third part discusses about the cause and effect of the ambition. And the last part is discussion of the analysis.

### **3.1 Structure of Michael Rogers's personality|**

#### **3.1.1 Id**

In the *Endless Night* novel, Michael is a poor man who has pretension to get something. His pretension appears when he has graduate in elementary school until he is adult. Michael Rogers becomes a selfish man. He wants to get everything but he doesn't have money. Michael comes from a poor family. He has a dream to buy a beautiful house, and live with beautiful girl at there. But he becomes unconscious with his condition.

He always has a big dream and he wants to make his dream come true, but with his irrational feeling. He never has logical thinking and feels unconscious who he is. In contrast to the instinctual id and the moral superego, the ego is the rational, pragmatic part of our personality. It is less primitive than the id and is partly conscious and partly unconscious.

### 3.1.2 Ego

In contrast to the instinctual id and the moral superego, the ego is the rational, pragmatic part of our personality. It is less primitive than the id and is partly conscious and partly unconscious.

One day Michael meets Greta, a French girl who lives with Ellie. Greta has the same ambition with Michael. Greta and Michael have the same mind. They never have any silly illusion each other. They want the world, and want to be on top of the world. They arrange the plan to get something easier. Greta helps Michael to have a relation with a rich girl, Ellie. Their planning runs carefully. They don't want someone know about their evil planning.

### 3.1.3 Superego

In marked contrast to the id is the superego which represents the moral branch of our functioning, containing the ideals, we strive for the punishments (guilt) we expect when we have gone against our ethical code.

After the death of Ellie, Michael walks in the forest. He sees Ellie standing at there, in the place where Michael meets Ellie for the first time. He feels anxious. Actually, Michael becomes afraid because he kills Ellie.

After he killed Greta, Michael feels satisfied. He thinks that Greta is not important again for Michael. Then police comes to the Michael's house. They check and interrogate about the death of Ellie and Greta. They also take Michael's mother at there. Michael seems like guilty because he makes his mother be sad. Michael becomes afraid to his mother because his mother always knows about Michael's thought. He realizes that he uses the wrong way.

## 3.2 Cause and effect of Ambition

Michael is embittered about The Tower in Gipsy's Acre. So, Michael comes to the Gipsy's Acre to see The Tower by himself. His desires to have beautiful house and live with beautiful women always comes in his heart.

One day Michael meets a girl in Hamburg. She is Greta, a girl who has an ambition and desires like Michael. They tell all about their self. Their ambition to get all they want and they have the same greed. Cause of his ambition, he makes a plan. That is Michael must kill Ellie, a rich girl who loves him. The effects of Michael's ambition make him be aware



that the wealth is not everything for him. His ambition makes all people who care and love him become disappointed, included his mother.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Based on the psychoanalytic analysis above, it is clear that in the story, Michael Rogers's personality has ambition in his life. Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory of personality depicts that human behavior is the result of the interactions among three component parts of the mind: the id, ego, and superego.

Michael's id is he becomes a man who wants everything and he is never satisfied with something he has. He wants to go everywhere around the world. He always tries to fill his desire to get something without deep thinking and without hard working with the right way. Everything he plans, everything he thinks, and everything he wants.

Michael has the ambition and desire to get The Tower in the Gipsy's land. Actually, he also becomes the bad boy when he studies at the elementary school. Then, his evil grows until he becomes a man. Then, he meets Greta, a girl who meets him in Hamburg for the first time. They have the same mind, the same kind of desires as Michael has. Michael and Greta want the world, and they want to be on top of the world.

In contrast to the instinctual id and the moral superego, the ego is the rational, pragmatic part of our personality. It is less primitive than the id and is partly conscious and partly unconscious. It's what Freud considered to be the "self," and its job is to balance the demands of the id and superego in the practical context of reality. Here, Michael uses his ego to make evil plans to fulfill his ambitions. He does the evil plans with someone who meets him which has the same thought with Michael. She is Greta.

To fill his ambition and his desire, he does the deception and embellishment as the steps that he does to get the house in the Gipsy's Acre and all the wealth from the rich girl who is marry with him. The girl is Ellie. Here, Michael's ego is evil because he wants to get The Tower ease and fast. Michael also uses Ellie's honest to get The Tower. Then, Michael marries with Ellie and lives in the The Tower. They look like a happy family when they live at there. Here Michael exploits the situation to do his planning. He paid Mrs.Lee to fright Ellie. Mrs.Lee tells fortune for Ellie that she will get the bad luck at there. So she must get out of Gipsy's Acre. All about his planning includes the fortune teller of Mrs.Lee, cyanide which drinks by Ellie, and many strange incidents in the Gipsy's Acre are run successfully. His plans run until the death of Ellie, Mrs.Hardcastle, Mrs.Lee, and Greta. He kills all of them. So, After all his plans running, his evils are known by all people around him. Slowly his heart is conscious about what he does.

The superego is concerned with social rules and morals—similar to what many people call their "conscience" or their "moral compass." In the end, Michael regrets about all he has done during to get his ambition to get the house and wealth from Ellie. But, he has lattes to realize because he lost a person who loves him and actually

he also loves her. He remembers the words of Ellie when he looks at Ellie. Then, Ellie says that he looks her like as though he loves Ellie. He remembers that Ellie is sweet. She finds the sweet delight.

Even he gets all the wealth what he wants now, beautiful house, Greta, they are invaluable again. His mom also feels that she fails to keep Michael's safe. But, Michael realizes that it is his fault. He also ignores the notices from Santonix. He supposes that the trouble of him is that he wants things too much, the easy way, and greedy way. Here, Michael feels conscious about what he does. Perhaps everyone has a chance, he also wants a chance after all incidents. But, all the day of tomorrow cannot return again. He feels that what he did is collide with the rules and norms. In the end, his entire plan becomes remorse. The effects of his ambition are the people around him become disappointed and he lost a person who loves him, Ellie.

Freud makes a good relationship between id, ego, and superego in Michael's personality. He can present an interesting story of human being which can happen in the daily life. He presents remorse of a man who is greedy and ambitious to get the wealth. Id and ego tries to be dominant characteristic in Michael's personality. As the problem solving, the superego comes to be solution. As the conclusion, it can be said that in Endless Night Novel, Michael's personality uses his ambition and greed to fill his desire in his life. Freud shows it by relating it to psychoanalytic theory. It is a part of psychological study which is correlated with personality of human being.

### **CONCLUSION**

This novel in particular speaks volumes about Agatha Christy, the writer's skill of the novel that respect and more importantly its purpose to introduce readers to the narrator, Michael Rogers. A man with his a big dreams yet has no means to afford a piece of land and a ruin that looks down to a breath taking scenery of sea and ship until he meets Ellie.

This research is far from the perfect because of the researcher's limited knowledge and understanding on the literature. The whole analysis stand for the researcher understanding of the novel based on the psychoanalytic criticism.

After analyzing the whole novel related to the Michael's ambition, his desires, and his personality, the researcher came to the conclusion that the Endless Night novel is the reflection of a man who has ambition to get the wealth easier, and he does the crime to rich girl who loves him. He does it to get the dream house in the Gipsy's Acre. Related to the Endless Night novel and the Freud's theory of personality, the writer concludes that Michael's personality can be classified into greedy, ambitious, tricky, and wicked.

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